

(19)



JAPANESE PATENT OFFICE

## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11) Publication number: 09245057 A

(43) Date of publication of application: 19.09.97

(51) Int. Cl.

G06F 17/30

G06F 12/00

G06F 12/00

G06F 17/27

(21) Application number: 08052133

(22) Date of filing: 08.03.98

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HAMADA HIROSHI(54) METHOD AND DEVICE FOR PROCESSING  
STRUCTURED DOCUMENT

decision means 3.

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(57) Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To easily extract the subject structure of the structured document by deciding whether each document element is a change point according to rule conditions and extracting the subject structure which is made hierarchical.

**SOLUTION:** The subject structure is extracted from the structured document which is formed by using structured description terms. In this case, a document element retrieval means 1 detects a document element constituting the document from the structured document. Further, a rule data storage means 2 holds the rule conditions under which a document element detected by the document element detecting means 1 is a subject change point. Then a document element matching decision means 3 decides by matching whether or not the detected document element meets the said rule conditions in the rule data storage means 2. Further, a subject structure extracting means 4 extracts the subject structure which is made hierarchical according to the result obtained by the document element matching

